

MARIAN LIBRARY

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON 9, OHIO

Newsletter

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February, 1947

The OPPORTUNITY OF THE CENTURY. At last the European book market is opening. During the past month well over four hundred books have come to the Marian Library from Paris, France. Included among these are Jourdain's Somme des Gloires de Marie (12 volumes), de Mischo's Conferences sur les Litanies de la Sainte Vierge (6 v.), Barbier's La Sainte Vierge d'apres les Peres (4 v.), Ledoux' Marie Meditee (5 v.), Notre Dame de France (6 v.), and de Fleury's La Sainte Vierge - Etude archeologique (2 v.). These and many others of perhaps even greater value are now the property of the Marian Library. We have not yet been able to do much in the direction of recording and cataloguing them, so it will take considerable time before we can really appreciate the full value of our most recent acquisitions. -- These books include some of the most modern publications as well as some that are quite old. In fact, the oldest book we now have is among them, a Portuguese book on the Rosary printed in 1574. Several books of the first two decades of the seventeenth century are among the collection.

The shipment of these books is not without some interest. Anyone who has tried shipping things to foreign countries, knows what a "headache" it is just to get a single package through our U.S. Postoffice. Probably the same difficulties would be encountered by someone over there; our guess is that it would be worse. But we are getting the books and that's what counts. Here's the story. We started our negotiations through Father Neubert, S.M., in Fribourg, Switzerland. He in turn interested Father Antoni of Paris in the project, and it was in Paris that probably most of the books were actually purchased. The purchasing shouldn't have been too difficult, but the shipment by a foreigner probably would have meant no end of trouble. But the problem was solved rather cleverly through the kindness of Chaplain John Finke, S.M., an American Marianist still in the armed service over there. The books have come to us under Father Finke's name and with American postage. -- We take this opportunity to express our sincerest thanks to all those who have been involved in the assembling and shipping of all these precious volumes to our Marian Library. At last we have gone over the first thousand mark.

And here's that OPPORTUNITY OF THE CENTURY! The books coming from Paris are costing us \$1000. We shall need every penny now left in our treasury for the publication of the REVISED BOOKLIST and so, if we want to be able to get similar purchases in Italy, Austria, and Spain, where our Brothers would be glad to cooperate, we need your help. At this time the value of European money is extremely low, while the value of American money is extremely high. Our money can purchase much more NOW than it will be able to when money values become more equalized. Our recent inquiries brought us the news that the American dollar was worth 117 French francs, and 220 Italian liras.

Remember, the Marian Library is a voluntary project, i.e., it depends solely upon the voluntary gifts of the children of our Blessed Mother. During the holidays a number of our friends came through with gifts to Mary's project, which we have tried in each case to acknowledge by personal communication. We single out here particularly a donation of \$5.00 by the College of New Rochelle and one of \$25.00 by Trinity College, Sioux City, Iowa. We present these as examples worthy of emulation, and may we ask you to consider the possibility of having your institution listed among the donors and patrons of this most dynamic project in the history of our country to assure the promotion of our heavenly Mother's cause down through the years. If every school and every sodality and every individual contacted by this NEWSLETTER made even the slightest contribution NOW, it would be multiplied many times in value, if it could be invested in foreign books when the value of the AMERICAN DOLLAR is at such a peak. Only by your contribution can the work go on! WRITE RIGHT NOW, and send your MITE to make the MIGHT of Our Mother more fruitful in our beloved ~~land~~.

Pope Pius donates 3000 volumes to Servite Fathers. In our December issue we wrote of the Marian Library at Banneux, Belgium, which according to latest reports now numbers 2500 volumes in its collection. Since then we have learned of the generous gift of the Holy Father to the Servite Fathers in Rome. In 1904, the fiftieth anniversary of the definition of the Immaculate Conception dogma, the promoters of the International Marian Congress in Rome under the leadership of Monsignor Stagni, O.S.M., suggested the founding of a Marian Library, which since that time was housed in various places in Rome the first being the Pontifical Leonine College. On October 22, 1946

acceding to the request of the Very Rev. Gabriele Roschini, O.S.M., the Holy Father through a letter of Cardinal Montini decreed that "The above-mentioned Marian Library should be confided to the Servite Fathers of the International College of St. Alexis Falconieri, where an international Marian center already exists." (From a clipping in a newspaper in Rome). -- To our knowledge this is the largest collection in the world today, a worthy goal for us to emulate in this land of ours dedicated to the Immaculate Mother.

We haven't missed the tip. The exchange of a few airmail letters have done the trick. Father Roschini graciously consented to allow us to have photostats made of his available list, though that list is not yet completed. As a result of our negotiations we have received fifty-eight photostats of his entries that have already been classified, giving us hundreds of new titles. We have just completed checking his list against our own and are now prepared to make additions to our forthcoming booklist, which, of course, will be delayed many days as a result. Proofs of the earlier portion that we had prepared for the revision are now coming in, but just now it looks as though the actual Revised Booklist will not be ready before summer. The task is gigantic, but the result should be representative. We are doing OUR UTMOST, but WE NEED YOUR HELP to further this magnificent work of our Blessed Mother. Will you let HER down?

Mary's friends are still coming through. Of the recent acquisitions that have been coming through from Mary's children here at home, it is difficult to say which deserves most comment. We are most grateful to Mr. Willging, successor to Father Kortendick, as Librarian of Catholic University, for donating from his own set Volumes VII and XVIII of the Ave Maria, which now make our set complete from the start in 1865. -- With the exceptional opportunities we hope to have in a few more years, we expect to be able to build up a useful index of articles from Marian periodicals. We appeal at this time to other institutions that have complete sets of Marian periodicals gathering dust to place them with the Marian Library, where they can be rendered fruitful. Without an index, they are virtually useless. We shall have the machinery to make them function for Mary's glory. -- Bro. Murphy, S.M.M., sent us a veritable treasure in the form of a photographic copy of Grignon de Montfort's original manuscripts of Traite de la vraie devotion a la Sainte Vierge. The book is really a gift of Capt. Floyd Marlowe, S.M.M. We have space for but one more item, an autographed copy of Father Richard F. Norton's Visitations of Our Lady, an excellent compilation of the apparitions of Our Lady down through the ages. The book can be purchased for \$2.00 from the author at 420 High St., Dedham, Mass.

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Home of the Marian Library



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